have gone back to the older one. It has been seen that we are wasting our timber and our money in working these two departments, the Tramway and Forests. If the Government is agreeable to appoint a Committee of officials and non-officials to examine the working of these departments, I shall withdraw the motion.

President.—All the discussions will be borne in mind, and the advice to appoint a Committee will be considered. This is all I can say at present. Do you want the motion to be put to the vote, Mr. Ouseph?

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

I press the motion, Sir.

The motion was read out by the President and was put to votes. It was lost by a majority.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

Sufficient discussion has been borne down. I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was withdrawn with the permission of the Council. The grant for the Forest Department was passed without any reduction.

Demand X—Tramway— Rs. 1·79 lakhs.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Sir, I rise to move for a grant, not exceeding Rs. 1,74,139, for Tramway.

Motion Nos. 33 to 37.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,79,200 under Tramway by Rs. 40,000.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,79,200 under Tramway by Rs. 9,200.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,79,200 under Tramway by Rs. 50,000.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

To omit the votable allotment of Rs. 1,74,139 under Tramway.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,79,200 under Tramway.

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President.—We have spoken a lot in connection with Demand No. IX, under Forest. Does anybody wish to speak?

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

Sir, I rise to a point of order. Rule 50, sub-rule 4, of the Legislative Council Rules "No motion shall be made for the reduction of a grant as a whole until all the motions for the omission or reduction of definite items in the grant have been discussed."

President.—There is no detailed item here. All the motions are for the reduction or omission of the total demand. Is it not so?

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

One motion is for a reduction of Rs. 40,000, and the motion of Mr. Puduval is for the omission of the full amount; that is tantamount to reduction.

President.—So these reduction motions will come first, and the motions for omission will come last.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

I propose a reduction, because I find considerable increase in the expenditure of 1100 and the budget estimate of this year, with regard to many items in the budget of the Tramway Department.

With regard to the item "Rails with fittings, etc." (on page 28), the budget estimate is Rs. 11,000 for the year 1101, and for 1100 the revised estimate is Rs. 5,070. There is a difference of Rs. 6,000. For repairs to bridges and other buildings (on page 29), an amount of Rs. 13,600 is allotted in the estimate for next year. The allotment for last year comes to Rs. 7,000. Loco expenses amount to Rs. 4,308. The corresponding figure in the previous year is Rs. 3,172. Then, for "Fuel, coal, etc.," Rs. 23,000 is put. Last year's revised budget estimate is only Rs. 9,798.

President.—Which is the sub-head you are referring to? Probably, you made a mistake with regard to the figures. The budget estimate for 1101 and the revised estimate of 1100 agree, so far as this item, sub-division No. III, is concerned.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

Of course, that does not make much difference. If we go to the figure for stores, sub-division VI (a), we

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find a budget estimate of Rs. 13,600 for 1101, as against Rs. 5,028 in the accounts of 1099. That is a difference of Rs. 5,000 or 6,000. On the whole, the budget estimate exceeds the previous estimate by more than Rs. 30,000, and in view of the condemnation which the Forest Department has come in for, these figures, in my opinion, are too high.

President.—The revised estimate for 1100 is Rs. 1,98,500; the budget estimate for 1100 is Rs. 1,38,700, and the actuals of 1099 Rs. 1,48,100.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

For 1099, we find the estimate is Rs. 1,48,158; for 1101, Rs. 1,79 200. There is a clear difference of Rs. 30,000. So my cut of Rs. 40,000 is not a guess work. It is a difference, and unless a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming, I wish to press my motion.

President.—The difference is due to the extension of the Tram.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON (*Vyttila*).

Will the member please give satisfactory explanations to these additions?

President.—They are all in the office files.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

If explanations for these additions are forthcoming, I shall withdraw the motion.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

The general increase of expenditure in the course of three years is due to the fact that the overhauling of the Tramway has been ordered. The expenditure is to be spread over a period of three years; it aggregates to a lakh and odd rupees.

President.—It is in consequence of that that we budgetted for Rs. 30,000 this year, mainly, on that account.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

Yes, Sir. It was mainly on that account.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

There is a further point whether the excess is due to the overhauling ordered.

President.—Probably, this overhauling was already considered and decided on long ago. When was it?

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Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

Last year.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Is it put here as overhauling charges?

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

It accounts for the total excess.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Overhauling has been ordered. Where is the expenses for that? I do not find anything in the printed statement.

President.—It will come under the various minor heads—Materials, Carriage and Waggon expenses, etc. There are many things connected with this overhauling. They are brought under sub-heads.

Mr. S. S. KODER (*Mattancheri*).

Is it absolutely necessary to overhaul the Tram?

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

It has already been decided to overhaul the Tramway.

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

The carrying capacity of the Tram is very low. If it is not overhauled, it will be still less. It has been working for the last 17 years.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

May I know whether the Government has any idea, when they undertake the task of overhauling? Is it only a haphazard way of spending money?

President.—There is a scheme before the Government. The overhauling has been finally sanctioned. Besides, if you do not overhaul the Tramway, you cannot get the work done efficiently.

Mr. S. F. NUNEZ (*Anglo-Indians*).

In view of the explanation given, I do not press my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Under 'repairs of machinery', nothing has been given.

President.—What are the various sub-heads under which overhauling comes in? Wherever increase is found, please note that, Mr. Govinda Menon.

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Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

On page 28, A II, there are so many items under "Repairs and renewals of permanent way"; Rs 12,000 for wages of gang coolies; Rs. 5,000 for ballast, Rs. 11,000 for Rails with fittings, &c., and then, Repairs to bridges —Rs. 13,600 against Rs. 12,800 in 1099; Repairs to other buildings—Rs. 11,189 against 1,608 in 1099. Is there anything for overhauling?

Mr. K. GOVINDA MENON (*Conservator of Forests*).

Rs. 13,600 out of Rs. 20,066 under Loco Expenses VI and VII is for overhauling.

President.—Materials— Rs. 2,000, page 30. Rs. 6,050 for bridges, all new stock. Any other item which will come under this overhauling?

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

Ballast, rails with fittings and sleepers. The total provision made for overhauling is Rs. 30,950.

President.—That is distributed under so many sub-heads.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

A motion stands in my name for a reduction of Rs. 9,200 The present Forest policy has been approved of by this House. The Tramway is only an adjunct to the Forest Department. I do not feel justified in pressing this motion.

With the leave of the Council, the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

I too withdraw my motion.

Mr. Ambooken's motion also was allowed to be withdrawn.

President —What is your attitude, Mr. Sankara Puduval?

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

May I know the view of the Conservator as regards the desirability of appointing a Committee.

President.—The feasibility of having a Committee will be considered.

Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

That is to say, "will be considered, before the allotment is granted"?

President.—In view of the discussion that has taken place in the Council, the question will, *hereafter*, be considered.

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Mr. A. SANKARA PUDUVAL (*Trichur*).

On that assurance, I shall withdraw my motion.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

The question of appointing a Committee has sprung upon the Government. This question will be considered by the Government.

President.—It is what I have expressed.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

The Hon'ble Member for Forest says that some more area is also to be tapped, and the timber felled down there has to be brought down. So, I do not think it will be necessary to abolish the Tramway now. So, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was withdrawn with the permission of the Council, and the total demand asked for the Tramway was passed.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

May I request the officials, when they move for grants, to give us such an explanatory statement of such items as overhauling and other charges, so that we need not press over the subjects for discussion. Now, want of explanation made us to come forward and put so many questions. Then only were we in a position to know the nature of the grants. We brought down all these questions, not with any motive. Of course, 10 minutes has now been spent for want of sufficient information.

Mr. A. K. VENGU AYYAR (*Secretary to the Diwan*).

It will not be possible, this year.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Whenever the figures appear large, it would save time, if the member in charge gives some explanation. Then, the non-officials will be in a position to understand the budget better.

President.—If information is sought as to the total allotment, the Government members will be able to give. For instance, so many items in the budget do not show the expenditure separately. It will not be practicable to give explanations for each and every item in the budget. If, in respect of a particular item, the Hon'ble Member wants any explanation, it can be

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given. If you examine the figure, you will be able to know whether it is too large to need explanation or not.

Mr. S. S. KODER (*Mattancheri*).

Sir, then, it is left for us all to study and understand the budget. That information, when the amount is very big, will help the matter very much.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

The Finance Member gives the report. We can only make cuts on such items as appear in the budget.

President.—When the matter is under discussion, you can ask the Government members for any explanation, and they will give you the same—of course, so far as they can, from the records in their possession. There is no objection in proposing cuts. Government welcomes candid criticism, by whomsoever it is offered.

Mr. V. K. KOCHUNNI MENON (*Ernakulam*).

In the rules, Appendix VI, we find copies of the Reports and proceedings will be sent to the members.

President.—After the budget is passed, we publish the Administration Report. You have—before that—Departmental Reports, reviewing the administration of each department. So also, in regard to the budget. The budget of each department is taken and passed, and the whole is then published. Whenever a larger figure than that for the previous year is shown, some explanation may be necessary.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

When we send notices of cuts, it is usual to write on the back of the Motion Form what all information we require. Probably, that has not been done by most of the members. If that was pointed out, the Departmental Heads would have been ready with the necessary explanations.

President.—Since this is the first business session, members themselves do not know the procedure. It is now 2 p. m. We will adjourn for lunch.

The Council resumed its sitting at 3 p. m.

DEMAND XI.—Registration.—Rs. ·68 lakh.

Motion No. 38.

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VATAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 68,100 under Registration by Rs. 4,000.

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